



## **2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CONSORTIUM**

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### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Seattle Youth Employment Consortium provided ARRA summer participants with educational and employment experiences that contextualized learning of job readiness skills. Activities provided a range of experiences that helped youth develop work-readiness skills, introduced career pathways including high growth sectors, connected classroom instruction with paid work, and supported exploration of post secondary opportunities.

### **CONSORTIUM PARTNERS**

Center for Career Alternatives (CCA), Seattle Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Metrocenter YMCA and YouthCare



### **SUMMER SNAPSHOT**

**Number of Participants Enrolled:** 327 youth and young adults

**Number of Work Sites:** 146 work sites

**Length of Experiences:** 7-14 weeks

**Types of Work Experiences:** Medical Service Clerk Trainee, IT Intern, Office Assistant Trainee, Patient Escort Assistant, Junior Counselor Trainee, Pre-Apprentice, Habitat Restoration Trainee, Library Aide Trainee, Tree Crew Groundsperson, Street Maintenance Flagger Trainee, Peer Health Educator and more.

### **PARTICIPANT PROFILE**

**Gender:** Female (178); Male (149)

**Age:** 14-18 years (225); 19-21 years (84); 22-24 (18)

**Race\*:** American Indian/Alaska Native (22); Asian (52); Black/African American (200); Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (11); White (48); Race not provided (26)

**Barriers:** High School Drop-out (31); Homeless/Runaway (61); Limited English (72); Offender (21); Pregnant/Parenting (14); Basic Literacy Skills Deficient (81); Other (47)

*\*More than one race may have been selected.*

### **SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Opportunities in the Skilled Trades**

In a partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation, six young adults with high employment barriers (homelessness, court-involvement and parenting) were placed into pre-apprenticeships. Their commitment to the pre-apprenticeship opportunity was clearly demonstrated by their willingness to report to the work site by 6:30 a.m. Besides learning skills in the trades such as concrete, plumbing and metal fabrication, participants also developed mentor relationships with supervisors. One participant, "M," a young parent, worked as small engine pre-apprentice. By rebuilding four engines over the summer, he gained a wide variety of mechanical skills. By the end of summer, M had perfect attendance and applied to SYEP's school-year program to assist him in obtaining his high school diploma. After high school, he hopes to attend community college to get a degree in mechanics.



#### **Learning Technology Skills Through Puget Sound-Off**

Young people from around Seattle participated in Metrocenter YMCA's summer technology internship with four goals of learning advanced technology skills, marketing their work on social networking website *Puget Sound Off*, gaining work and life skills, and thinking about their futures with help from industry professionals and colleges. Interns picked a focus and became experts in either Journalism, Graphic Design or Marketing. With the help of SCAN TV, every intern, in teams of 3 or 4, worked on a Videozine with all of the work posted on [www.pugetsoundoff.org](http://www.pugetsoundoff.org). Two of the 3 post high school interns are currently in the process of enrolling into college while the others are staying focused at their high school education.



## SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

**Partnership with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation** SYEP collaborated with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to help youth and young adults with disabilities access ARRA-funded summer jobs and provide better transition to the workplace after high school. DVR recruited youth/young adults with disabilities, helped with the application process, and provided job coaches to help adapt jobs to the youth's disability. Seventeen youth/young adults with disabilities were referred by DVR and were placed by SYEP in a range of summer jobs *such as* day camp counselor trainees, child care aides, habitat restoration crew member, and health educator. Following their experiences, four participants were offered part-time unsubsidized jobs by their work sites.

**Retail and Work Readiness Training** Through a partnership with Goodwill and Seattle Parks and Recreation, CCA provided ARRA participants with an eight week Retail and Customer Service experience. Through 160 hours of work experience and 120 hours of classroom activities, participants learned about merchandising, customer service and communication, career pathways in retail and marketing. Furthermore, to provide participants with a comprehensive set of job readiness and life skills, youth learned about career exploration, budgeting and money management, post secondary opportunities, and job finding skills including resumes and applications. Recruitment focused on youth from low-income families who are academically behind in school. Many were also immigrants/refugees, and faced other barriers such as homelessness and court involvement.



**Employment Training for Homeless Youth** YouthCare Orion Center enrolled and placed 40 homeless young people into seven different projects: (1) the Barista program, an 8 week long training program in espresso-making and customer service skills; (2) YouthTech, a 14 week long Information Technology experience where participants earn college credit, obtain an industry-vetted credential and build and re-furbish computers for others; (3) AccuVision project at SSCC; (4) YouthCare internships where youth learned and practices office skills and facilities maintenance; (5) Habitat Restoration; (6) Technology internships at Seattle Education Access and Wilderness Technology Alliance and (7) The Tile project, an arts-based employability program. The number of hours (from 120 hours to 230 hours) as well as the occupational skills learned varied. All participants also received work readiness skills training and support including resume and cover letter writing, job search skills, interpersonal skills, and customer service skills.

## 2009 ARRA Summer Youth Employment Consortium Work Sites

Aki Kurose Middle School	Oromo Community Services
Alliance Francaise de Seattle/Good Shepherd Center	Rainier Vista Technology & Job Resource Center
American Red Cross	Refugee Federation Service Center
Asian Counseling and Referral Service	Refugee Women's Alliance
Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation	Re-Store
Association Recreation Council (13 sites)	Sanctuary Arts/Treehouse
Ballard Swedish Hospital	Seattle Department of Transportation (5 sites)
Belle Epicurean	Seattle Goodwill
Boys and Girls Clubs of King County (4 sites)	Seattle Housing Authority
Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program	Seattle Indian Center
Catholic Community Services	Seattle Office for Civil Rights
Chinese Information Service Center: Family & Youth	Seattle Public Library/Washington Talking Book and Braille Library
City of Seattle Human Services Department (2 sites)	Seattle Public Utilities
City of Seattle Legislative Department	Seattle Union Gospel Mission (6 sites)
City of Seattle Parks & Recreation (19 sites)	Seed of Life Center for Early Learning & Preschool
City of Seattle Dept of Neighborhoods (3 sites)	Solid Ground
City of Seattle Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens	South Seattle Community College
Damascus Child Care	Swedish Medical Center
Youngstown Cultural Arts Center	The Washington Bus
East Fir School-Age Summer Program: YWCA	Tiny Tots Development Center (2 sites)
Emergency Feeding Program	U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development
Environmental Outreach & Stewardship Alliance (3 sites)	University of Washington Medical Center
Interconnections	University of Washington
International Community Health Services	Veteran's Administration Hospital of Puget Sound
Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center	Vietnamese Friendship Association
Leon Sullivan Health Care Center	Wallingford Boys & Girls Club
Low Income Housing Institute	Wing Luke Asian Museum
Metrocenter YMCA (2 sites)	Youth Media Institute
Neighborhood House/Project Handle	Zion Preparatory Academy
Non-Profit Assistance Center	YouthCare (3 sites)
North Seattle Community College	YouthCare Orion Center